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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

Carrison Training

1. The quality of training in the Soviet Army varies with the different classes and the individual. In general however, the class of 1927, which was demobilized in May and June of 1951, was the best trained group. The classes of 1928, 1929, 1930 and 1931 were more difficult to train because of their general lack of formal education.

[redacted] was only fair in my opinion, as it was retarded by the inability of the trainees to absorb instruction as readily as earlier classes.

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2. There were various exercises conducted throughout the year. In January and February of 1951, the 1018th AA Regt took part in regimental artillery training exercises in Langebrueck, which were under the supervision of a colonel, an artillery officer of the 11th Tank Division. In March 1951, the 1018th AA Regt conducted firing at a range near Königsbrück where all regimental weapons (37 mm AA and 12.7 mm machine-guns) were fired. Later in March 1951, the 1018th participated in the First Gds Mecced Army exercises which were conducted in the area of Kamenz - Königsbrück. These exercises lasted for two weeks.
3. The training schedule was practically identical for all phases of training except that during the winter all activities were advanced one hour. A typical five day training schedule was as follows:

0600 - 0605	Reveille
0605 - 0625	Physical training
0625 - 0650	Morning toilet
0650 - 0700	Inspection by first sergeant
0700 - 0900	Training
0900 - 0930	Breakfast
0930 - 0940	Preparation for training
0940 - 1000	March to training area
1000 - 1600	Training
1600 - 1630	Dinner
1630 - 1800	Rest period
1800 - 1830	Cleaning weapons
1830 - 1900	Toilet
1900 - 2100	Political discussions under guidance of battery political officers
2100 - 2130	Supper
2130 - 2220	Free time
2220 - 2230	Roll call
2230 - 2250	Close order drill
2250 - 2300	Preparation for bed
2300	Taps

Each Saturday was known as "Park Day". All equipment was cleaned in the morning and inspection was held between 1300 and 1500 hours. Artillery officers inspected the guns, battery commanders the vehicles and guns, and platoon leaders individual equipment and arms. The forty hours of training each week were apportioned as follows:

Training in aiming weapons	12
Physical training (in addition to morning PT)	4
Political lectures	4
Assembly, disassembly and nomenclature of weapons	8
Tactical training	3
Close order drill (in addition to drill at 2230)	3
Chemical warfare training	2
Medical training	2
Engineer training	2
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4. During the exercises held by the First Gds Mech Army in the Kamenz - K8nigsbrun area, Lt Gen Govorunienko, CO of the First Gds Mech Army, held a critique with his divisional and regimental commanders after each training day. Col Pokhomov, CO of the 11th Tk Div, held critiques at the beginning of each day. In the lower command echelons, the unit commander was responsible for the training of his unit under the general supervision of the regimental chief of staff. In regimental exercises, the divisional artillery officer was charged with the over-all supervision of the problems.
5. During these exercises, Lt Gen Govorunienko conducted two training inspections and Col Pokhomov conducted daily inspections to determine training proficiency in the regimental problems. Lower echelons also had daily inspections by unit commanders. These inspections were in addition to the daily critiques.
6. I believe that one of the main deficiencies, noted by higher headquarters during training exercises at regimental level and higher, was the use of obsolete maps, which were issued in 1942. The maps, not representative of the terrain, caused numerous snarls in unit movements. The road system on the maps did not agree with the actual road system of the terrain. In the early part of 1951 however, these maps were supplanted by 1947 and 1948 editions. During the first night of the exercises held in Langebrueck in January and February of 1951, the use of the obsolete maps caused the 1018th AA Regt to foul up a regimental problem involving the tank regiments of the 11th Tk Div. To overcome this problem, regimental commanders made daytime reconnaissance trips, after which they briefed their battalion commanders on the terrain and location of prepared positions. The battalion and company commanders also scouted the territory in the daytime and drew maps of the area in order that prepared positions could be located during the night exercises.
7. I know of no specialized training except night training and camouflage exercises. In February 1951, the 11th Tk Div had night training exercises for one week. All activities which were normally executed in the daytime were carried out at night. The training schedule was reversed, thus starting at 1700 hours and ending at 1000 hours. Reveille was at 1700, breakfast from 2000 to 2100, dinner from 0200 to 0300, and supper from 0700 to 0800 hours. Camouflage training in the 1018th AAA Regt was put to actual practice during summer exercises. All vehicles tracks were obliterated when at a halt; vehicles and artillery pieces were concealed under trees; camouflage with nets, twigs, branches and dummy gun batteries was set up about one kilometer away from the actual AAA positions. This training was the responsibility of the CO of the 1018th AAA Regt and not that of the engineers.

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8. In July 1950, there was an influx of political officers (Zampolits) down to and including company level. Prior to this time, Zampolits were not assigned below regimental level. Anti-West propaganda was a most important phase of political indoctrination and discussions usually were held daily from 1900 to 2100 during the entire training period.
9. An NCO school administered by the 1018th AAA Regt was attended by enlisted men from all units of the 11th Tk Div. Fifty enlisted men from the 1018th AA Regt and 30 from other units of the division attended an eight month training course at the school, from 1 Nov 50 until 31 Jun 51. The education, political reliability, physical condition, and general intelligence of the enlisted men were all taken into consideration when selection was made. The student body was divided into four platoons, each led by an officer platoon leader. The platoon leaders and regimental officers taught such basic military subjects as close order drill, physical training, artillery and AAA firing nomenclature of optical sights and weapons, leadership, CW and engineering. Graduates received the rank of junior sergeant and were assigned to the various units within the 11th Tk Div.
10. Newly inducted enlisted men received their basic training in the USSR and upon their assignment to a specific unit were trained along with the other enlisted men.
- Summer Training and Maneuvers
11. On 12 Apr 51, at 0200 hours, and upon completion of the command post exercises which I have described above, the 1018th AAA Regt moved from the winter quarters at Dresden to the summer quarters in Bohra, near Königsbrück. One battery of four officers and 44 enlisted men were left behind in Dresden to guard the area of the 11th Tk Div. This group kept their individual equipment, four guns, four prime movers and supplies for the battery. Each month another battery with its own equipment relieved the battery performing guard duty. The students of the NCO school remained in winter quarters one day after the other soldiers had left because the trucks were loaded with cots, mattresses, blankets, etc. and there was no transportation available for them. The trucks returned the following day to transport them to summer quarters where they received further training. In the event of an emergency however, the students would have been transported instead of the supplies.
12. All regimental equipment was taken to summer quarters.

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13. The 1018th AAA Regt was moved by motor transport to the summer quarters.
- (a) The convoy consisted of about 45 vehicles; one sedan, one jeep, one ambulance, a trailer for headquarters, prime movers and guns, and trucks. The move began at 0200 hours on 12 Apr 51.
  - (b) Each truck transported 10 enlisted men, each of whom carried his own equipment which consisted of a steel helmet, gas mask, overcoat, carbine or submachine-gun. Ammunition boxes and other equipment were stacked in the middle of the truck and under the seat.
  - (c) The regiment used 45 vehicles to move all the personnel and equipment.
  - (d) The move took approximately six hours to summer quarters.
  - (e) During the move, two trucks broke down but the convoy was not delayed. Later, they were brought to the summer camp by tow cars.
  - (f) Men from the 218th Mort Regt, 496th How Regt and the 9th Tk Div were already in the summer training area at the time the 1018th AAA Regt moved. Four men from each battery, accompanied by two officers (a total of 18 persons), left the winter quarters 12 days prior to the general move for the purpose of placing the summer quarters in order. These men did not take any equipment with them.
  - (g) Three maps of the summer training area are attached as Enclosures (A), (B) and (C).
  - (h) Regular messes were operated for the enlisted men. Motion pictures were shown on Saturday and Sunday evenings. There also were organized games on Sunday afternoon. Once a week men bathed in a lake located a few kilometers from the camp. The officers, on the other hand, had their own club for entertainment.
  - (i) At summer quarters, a former German artillery range was used by the 1018th AAA Regt. The regiment fired on towed sleeve targets and moving ground targets.
  - (j) Supply installations which supported the summer training area are shown in Enclosure (C).
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- (k) The commanding officer of each unit was responsible for keeping both the enlisted men and the officers of his unit in the training area. The first sergeant, platoon and squad NCOs watched the enlisted men, and the company commanders were responsible for the officers. Sentries patrolled the area 24 hours per day.

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- (l) Approximately three weeks after the unit arrived in the area, scheduled training began on 3 May 51. From 12 Apr 51 until 3 May 51, buildings were painted, latrines constructed, etc. This work was in addition to that done by the 18 men who left winter quarters prior to the last move.
  - (m) In June 1950, the 1018th AAA Regt went to the rifle range near Königsbrück for a period of about 12 days. Field kitchens were used and the men slept in trucks or the best places they could find. They were supplied with blankets but had no tents.
  - (n) Soldiers were free from training every day from 2130 until 2220 hours, and on Saturday and Sunday afternoons. Athletics on Sundays however, was compulsory. Officers were free each day after 1800 hours, but they also had roll call at 2230 hours. They could, however, be absent from training with the permission of their commanding officer.
  - (o) Summer training in the Soviet Army is the practical application of the theoretical training given during the rest of the year. Training up to company level was conducted in the winter quarters, while company, regimental and battalion training was conducted in summer quarters.
  - (p) There was no specialized training.
14. Units of the First Gds Mecz Army began their 14 day maneuvers on 24 Aug 50. Maneuvers were conducted in the area of Bohra, Schmorkau, Schwepnitz, Koenigswartha, Altheide, Dover. During maneuvers I saw tank, AAA, engineer, AT, howitzer, mortar, artillery and infantry units. To the best of my knowledge, no units were pooled or reorganized. Students of the NCO school, who had graduated in June 1950, were assigned to units of the First Gds Mecz Army and also participated. During the maneuver, I personally saw 57 mm AT guns, 122 mm howitzers, 120 mm mortars, 37 mm AAA, T-34/76, T-34/85 and JS-3-100 tanks, pontoons and TU-2 planes. I saw no airborne soldiers or paratroopers. The engineers spanned a stream about 15 m wide with a pontoon bridge, 20 m long and seven to eight m wide, which was strong enough to support the heaviest equipment.
15. I personally saw the following general officers in the maneuver area in August 1950: Lt Gen Belov, CG, First Gds Mecz Army (now assigned in Potsdam as the Chief or Deputy Chief of all tank forces in the Soviet Zone; replaced by Lt Gen Govorunienko in October 1950); Major Gen Derevyanko, Deputy Commander First Gds Mecz Army (now assigned as political commissar of the Second Shock Army in the Soviet Zone, and replaced by Maj Gen Slyshko); Maj Gen Dolpachov, Chief of Artillery, First Gds Mecz Army and Maj Gen Volodin, Chief of Staff, First Gds Mecz Army.

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16. All moves were made by motor transport. The longest distance covered was from Königsbrück to the Polish border which was about 300 km. The maneuver was a continuous day and night problem. Sometimes the troops rested in the day and the maneuver was conducted at night, and sometimes the procedure was reversed. I can give no details on the wire and radio equipment nor information on what communication nets were established in the maneuver. [REDACTED]

The overall purpose of the maneuver was to attack, repel the enemy attack and to counterattack. The specific mission of the 1018th AAA Regt was to protect the 90th Tk Regt and Division Headquarters from aerial attack. Approximately six field grade officers acted as umpires.

17. A critique held at the end of the maneuver was attended by all officers of battery level and higher, and also by all political officers [REDACTED]

I again saw the four general officers I have already mentioned. The following deficiencies were pointed out and discussed at the critique: poor night camouflage and no blackouts; insufficient number of OD's at night; lack of alertness and observation at night; breakdown of transportation in some units (AAA stayed behind and did not move with tanks to protect them from enemy planes); lack of organization for attack by regimental tank commanders (they did not leave sufficient reserves and adopted wrong formations); poor maps.

18. Soldiers did not dare voice official complaints about the conditions in the summer training area. On one occasion however, enlisted men complained about having no shelter during a heavy rainstorm. Their only protection from the rain was the canvas tops on the trucks and these were leaky. The main complaints were poor food, lack of freedom and the continuous movement.

19. Many incidents occurred among the enlisted men and officers which indicated poor discipline. Both enlisted men and officers went AWOL, fraternized and misbehaved in general. Enlisted men sometimes refused to take orders from an NCO or officer who was not from his unit. I know that a junior sergeant of the 4th Btry, 1018th AAA Regt, while drunk, refused to obey orders and struck his platoon commander. He received 10 days in the guard-house. When another enlisted man was in town with his football team, he put on civilian clothes and went AWOL. He returned to his unit drunk; he also was put in the guard-house. A drunk platoon Lt struck a Lt Col, broke some furniture in the officers mess and then went AWOL for 24 hours. He was tried by an officers court, reduced to a junior lieutenant and dismissed from the Komsomol. Two other officers got in a fight over a German girl and started shooting at each other. They were severely reprimanded and sentenced to 10 days in the guard-house. The usual punishment for such conduct is 10 to 15 days in the guard house and sometimes a reduction in rank. This punishment is quite light compared to that during wartime when a man might be "shot on the spot" for such offenses. The new system of controlling the men emphasized education, guidance and light punishment.

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20. The return move to winter quarters of the 1018th AAA Regt was accomplished by truck on 19 Sep 50. The trip began at 1500 and ended at 1400 hours. Three men from each regiment of the 11th Tk Div remained as guards until October by which time all units had returned to their home station. German civilians were then hired to guard the area.

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ENCLOSURE (A) Location of Summer Training Area of the First Gds Mecz Army

(B) First Gds Mecz Army Summer Training Area in Bohra (N52/A21)

(C) 1018th AAA Regt Summer Training Area in Bohra (N52/A21)

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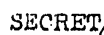
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Enclosure (A) Page -2-

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Location of Summer Training Area of the 1st  
Gds Mecz Army

Legend:

1. Location of the 4th AAA Div
2. Compound of 498th How Bn, 11th Tk Div
3. Headquarters of three tank divisions: (a) 8th; (b) 9th; (c) 11th
4. Barracks and tank parking area of 8th, 9th and 11th Divs:  
(Those units not shown on Enclosure (B))
5. 40th Med tk Regt
6. Observation tower for field grade officers
7. AAA target range
8. Target range for mortars and rocket launchers
9. Target range for howitzers and heavy artillery
10. AAA target range
11. Firing area for tanks and self-propelled artillery
12. Emergency assembly point, 11th Tk Div
13. Emergency assembly point, 11th Tk Div
14. Emergency position, 4th Btry, 1018th AAA Regt
15. Emergency position, 2d Btry, 1018th AAA Regt
16. Emergency position, 3d Btry, 1018th AAA Regt
17. Emergency position, 1st Btry, 1018th AAA Regt
18. Former German target range
19. Training area in Bohra (Enclosures B and C)

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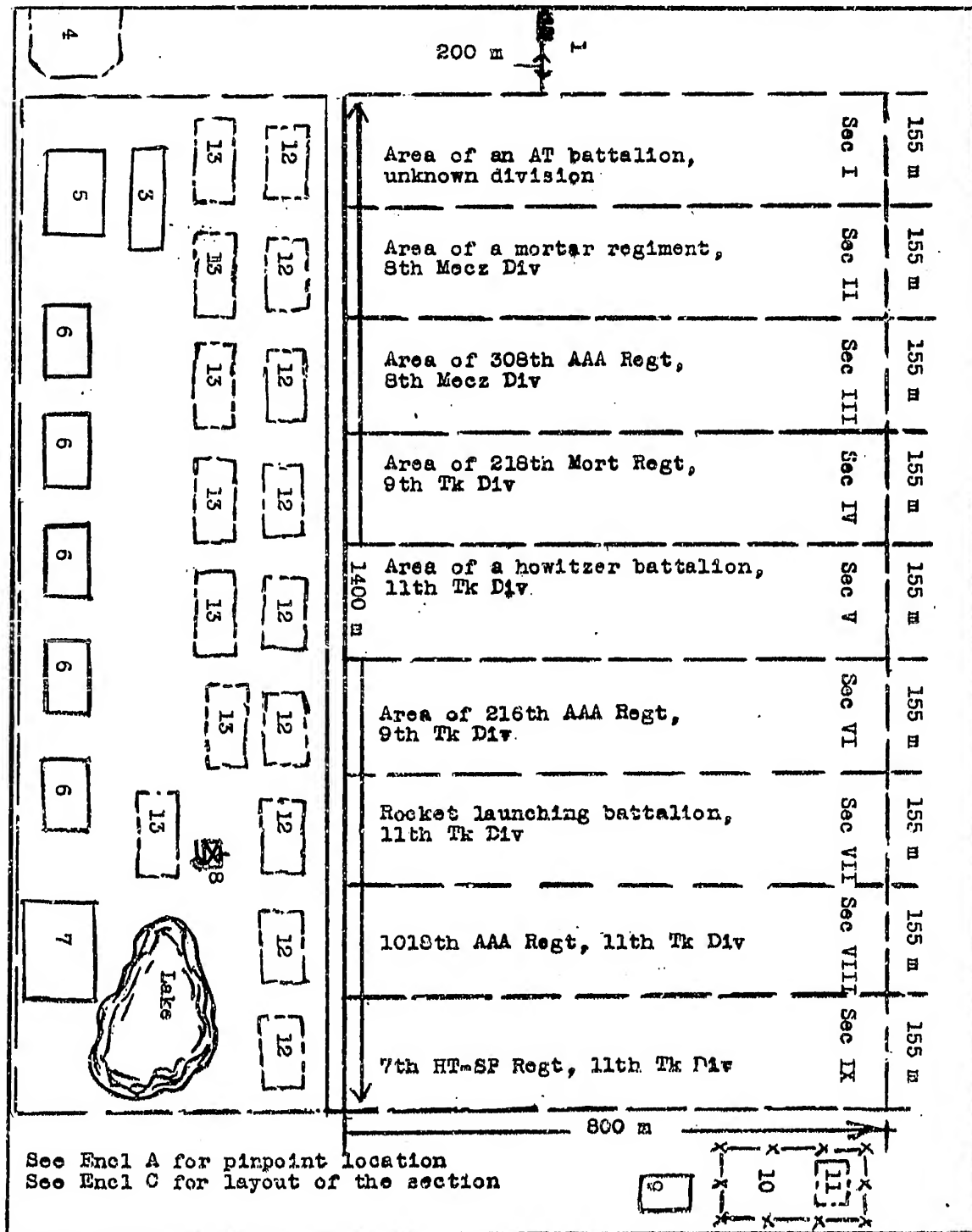
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Enclosure (B) Page -/-

First Gdz Mecz Army Summer Training Area in Bohra  
(N52/A21)



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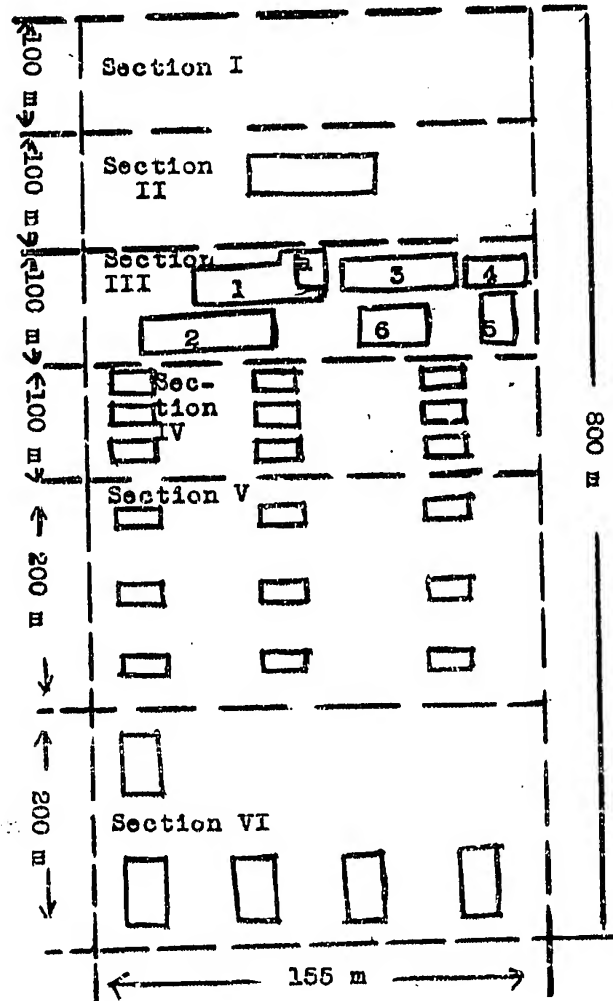
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1018th AAA Regt Summer Training Area in Bohra  
(N52/A21)

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